

Meshomasic Hiking Club Winter 2018 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down;
D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Monday, January 1, 10:30a - Gay City State Park, Hebron: Resolved: Start the New Year off right with a hike! Reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones. Roughly 3-mile hike by Split Rock, Gay City Pond, and Blackledge River and return to parking lot. Bail out or hike similar distance by old ruins, beaver lodge, Blackledge River. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron. RSVP by 12/31 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Tuesday, January 2, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, East Hampton: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Colchester. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Route 196 south (Summit Street) just east of East Hampton center. In 0.4 mile turn left on Flanders Road then the next right on Smith Street. The lot will be on the left immediately beyond the pond. RSVP by 01/01 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 3, 9:00a - Hockanum River Trail, Vernon / Ellington: A 6-mile hike on an old railroad bed by a marsh crossing a new, suspended footbridge. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/02 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursdays, January 4 to March 29, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: This hike happens each Thursday at the same location, but check with Chantal in case of a change. We do a 3.6-mile loop with a fairly steep climb of 300 feet at a good pace. We complete the loop at 10:30 am. Friendly, well-managed dogs are welcome. Rating: B2. No kids, please. Hiking boots only. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by the day prior to Chantal at 860-573-2946.

Saturday, January 6, 9:15a - Pleasant Valley and Jewett Preserves, Lyme: An approximately 6-mile, brisk, woodland hike with rolling terrain. Rating: C3. Kids and polite dogs welcome. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Heavy rain cancels. If in doubt, call before 8:15 am. Meet at the parking lot for the Lyme Consolidated School (473 Hamburg Road). Take Route 82 from East Haddam (southbound / eastbound) OR from the end of Route 11 in Salem (westbound) to Route 156. Take 156 south for 1.6 miles. The school is on the right. RSVP by 01/05 to Connie at 860-690-9391 or crokicki3@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, January 7, 9:15a - Gay City to Case Mountain, Hebron / Glastonbury / Manchester: A roughly 7-mile hike by interesting rock formations with a view from the Lookout Mountain summit near the end of the hike. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK if there is enough room in cars for the car spot. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Case Pond Lot on Birch Mountain Road in Manchester for a short car spot at 9:15 am sharp. From I-384 East, take exit 4, left at end of exit onto Wyllys Street, then right at light on Highland Street, take right onto Birch Mountain Road just after going under I-384, and finally a quick right into the lot. RSVP by 01/06 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Tuesday, January 9, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, Colchester: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading east from Bull Hill parking area. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Bull Hill Rd parking area. From Route 16 in East Hampton turn onto Comstock Bridge Road by the covered bridge over the Salmon River. Follow the paved road for 1.1 miles then take the left fork onto Bull Hill Road. Do not take the dirt road on the right. Follow the road to the top of the steep hill. Parking will be on the left at the sharp curve to the right. RSVP by 01/08 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 10, 9:00a - Old Connecticut Path, Eastford: An 8-mile hike on the path where the first settlers walked into Connecticut in the 1600's. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 01/09 to John at 860-342-0658.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Friday, January 12, 9:00a - Northern Cockaponset Exploratory, Higganum: A 6-mile walk on unmarked trails in the Cockaponset State Forest. There will be some bushwhacking. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/11 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, January 13, 9:45a - Gay City State Park to Blackledge Falls, Hebron: A roughly 6-mile hike by the Blackledge River, scenic ponds, and rock formations to the Falls. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron for a start at 9:45 sharp. RSVP by 01/12 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, January 14, 9:30a - Oswegatchie Hills, East Lyme: A hike of 3 to 4 miles of rolling wooded terrain, ponds, and a brief glimpse of the Niantic Bay. After the hike, optional 1 mile boardwalk in Niantic ending with ice cream or treats. Rating: C3. Kids OK but no dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring something to drink for the hike. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Veterans Memorial Park (10 Memorial Park Drive, East Lyme) across the street from the Sunoco gas station on Route 161. RSVP not required. Call or e-mail with questions to Laurette at 860-614-4021 or laurettesaller@gmail.com.

Tuesday, January 16, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, East Hampton: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Portland. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Route 196 south (Summit Street) just east of East Hampton center. In 0.4 mile turn left on Flanders Road then the next right on Smith Street. The lot will be on the left immediately beyond the pond. RSVP by 01/15 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 17, 9:00a - Roraback Wildlife Management Area, Harwinton: An 8-mile hike in one of the largest wildlife management areas in Connecticut. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/16 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, January 20, 8:00a - West Peak, Castle Craig, South Mountain, Meriden: This 10- to 12-mile hike on prominent traprock ridges will offer many ups and downs and spectacular views of Central Connecticut and beyond. Rating: B1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:00 or at the large playscape parking lot in the NE section of Hubbard Park at 8:30. RSVP by 01/19 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Sunday, January 21, 10:00a - Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington: A salt-marsh walk of 4 miles on a series of causeways connecting forest tracts. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the boat launch parking area at the end of Palmer Neck Road in Stonington. Traveling east on I-95, take exit 91 and go straight through the intersection with Route 234. Drive 0.3 mile then turn right onto Farmholme Road going 1.8 miles to Route 1. Turn right on Route 1 then immediately left on Greenhaven Road followed by an immediate right onto Palmer Neck Road. Drive 1.7 miles to the end of Palmer Neck Road. RSVP by 01/20 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, January 23, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, Portland: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards downtown Portland. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. We will start from Depot Hill Road which has limited parking. RSVP by 01/22 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 24, 9:00a - Pine Ledges of the Cockaponset, Chester: A 6-mile hike through the largest ledge formation in the state forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/23 to John at 860-342-0658.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Saturday, January 27, 1:00p - The Beerbox Boil-up, East Glastonbury: A 5-mile hike along powerlines in East Glastonbury followed by a campfire. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink for a campfire as well as food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 01/26 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, January 28, 9:30a - Salmon River State Forest, East Hampton: Enjoy 6 to 7 miles of wooded terrain with beautiful views of the Salmon River, an old mill site, and Day Pond. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP not required. Call or e-mail with questions to Laurette at 860-614-4021 or laurettesaller@gmail.com.

Tuesday, January 30, 9:30a - Hurd Park Green Trail, East Hampton: A 6-mile loop around Hurd Park beginning on the Green Trail and returning to the winter lot. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by 01/29 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 31, 9:00a - The Nike Silo Sites of Meshomasic, Portland: An 8-mile hike to the "Cold War" site. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 01/30 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, February 2, 8:45a - Winter Sports Outing at Maple Corner Farm, Granville, MA: An outing to Maple Corner Farm in the foothills of the Berkshires for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on groomed trails. Weekday trail fees: adult \$10, junior (6-12) \$6. Rentals are available at reasonable prices. Rating: X-C. Kids OK but no dogs. Bring own equipment or rent on site. Bring food and drink or purchase at the lodge. Lack of snow cancels and activates the northern Cockaponset Trail hike (found next on schedule). Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/02 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Friday, February 2, 8:45a - Northern Cockaponset Trail, Haddam: A 6-mile exploratory hike in the northern section of the Cockaponset State Forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Snow in the Berkshires cancels and activates the Maple Corner Farm X-C outing (found preceding on schedule). Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/02 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, February 3, 9:00a - Trails of Tolland Conservation Areas, Tolland: A 5- to 6-mile hike through Stopplesworth, Knofla, and Campbell Peaceful Valley Conservation areas. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather, deep snow, or lack of RSVP's cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland or ask Glenda for directions to trailhead parking. RSVP by 02/02 to Glenda at 860-659-3178.

Sunday, February 4, 10:00a - Valley Falls and Tulip Tree Trail, Vernon: Get ready for the Super Bowl with a roughly 6-mile hike by streams, pond, ledge, and possibly Bolton Lake Dam, weather permitting. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Valley Falls Park. Directions: From I-84 East, take exit 66, left at stop sign at end of exit onto Route 541, then right at the next stop sign onto Bolton Road. Drive for 1.4 miles and take right onto Valley Falls Road, finally a quick left into park. RSVP by 02/03 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Wednesday, February 7, 9:00a - Holcomb Farm and McLean Game Refuge, West Granby: An 8-mile hike in a town preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/06 to John at 860-342-0658.

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Friday, February 9, 8:30a - Music Mountain Exploratory, Cornwall: * *Please note earlier start time.** A 6-mile hike to mysterious foundations. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/08 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, February 10, 10:00a - Miller's Pond State Park, Durham: Using mountain bike trails, we will hike a 5-mile circle around the pond and over numerous ledges. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the state park lot off Foot Hills Road. From Route 9 exit 11 turn left on Randolph Road (westbound) and drive 0.8 mile to make a left turn onto Millbrook Road (southbound). Travel 2.6 miles then make a slight left turn onto Foot Hills Road. The park entrance is 1.2 miles on the right. RSVP by 02/09 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Sunday, February 11, 9:00a - Nehantic State Forest, Hadlyme: A 5- to 6-mile hike in a state forest with ponds, ups and downs, and a blue trail. Neighboring preserves and a balanced boulder make for an interesting walk. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots and traction devices or snowshoes recommended. Bring lunch and drinks. Steady rain cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/10 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Wednesday, February 14, 9:00a - The Gateway Preserve, Colchester: An 8-mile hike in a land trust preserve and a state forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/13 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, February 17, 9:30a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: A roughly 5-mile hike with some Connecticut River views and interesting rock formations. If there is sufficient snow, we will reduce the mileage and snowshoe. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the lot at Hurd State Park entrance. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and meet at entrance on the right in a half mile. Don't park at lot by traffic light. RSVP by 02/16 to John Fry at 860-978-8503.

Sunday, February 18, 9:00a - New trail exploration, Durham: A 6-mile exploration of a new trail. This trail, when finished, will replace a road walk on Old Blue Hills Rd. It begins near Mt. Pisgah at a parking lot for mountain bikers on Dead Hill Rd. Rating: E3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking area at the end of Dead Hill Road. From Durham center go south on Route 17 then make a slight left onto Route 79. Drive 1.7 miles further and turn right on Mt. Pisgah Road at a Krauszer's Market. At the T intersection, turn left on Dead Hill Road and drive to its end. RSVP by 02/17 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Wednesday, February 21, 9:00a - Pike, Marshall, and Burton Preserves, Ledyard: A 6-mile hike in Nature Conservancy preserves. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/20 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Thursday, February 22, 7:00p - Activities Planning Meeting, East Hampton:** Come join us to plan the hikes, paddles, and other activities of your club. Even if you are not ready to lead a trip, please come see what this planning is all about. Bring your ideas for club events. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High Street, East Hampton. Park in the lot (off Route 66) next to the church which is on the northeast corner of Route 66 (High Street) and Main Street, East Hampton. Enter by the back door adjacent to the parking lot. RSVP by 02/22 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, February 24, 8:00a - Talcott Mountain and Penwood State Parks, Avon / Simsbury: This will be a 10- to 11-mile hike (with a chance to bail after 7 miles) with many ups, downs, and beautiful views. Rating: C2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland at 8:00 am OR at the Penwood State Park parking lot off Route 185 in Simsbury at 8:40 am. RSVP by 02/23 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

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Saturday, February 24, 1:00p - Mount Pisgah Boil-up, Durham: A 5-mile to vistas and a remote pond. A campfire follows the hike. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink for a campfire as well as food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/23 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, February 25, 10:00a - East Kettle Hole Trail in Mansfield Hollow, Mansfield: A 4-mile hike with many water views along the Natchaug River near the end of the reservoir with kettle holes and other features. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Wildlife Management parking lot, end of North Windham Road in the village of North Windham. Driving east on Route 6, continue for 1.9 miles beyond the end of the divided portion. At the signal at Route 203 turn left on North Windham Road Extd and drive 0.4 mile, crossing the Natchaug River. Take the left turn just after the bridge onto North Windham Road and drive to its end. RSVP by 02/24 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, February 27, 10:00a - Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam: A hike of over 5 miles on the trails of the state park. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Machimoodus State Park lot off Route 151 in East Haddam. From Route 66 in the Cobalt section of East Hampton, drive south on Route 151 for 6.7 miles to the park entrance on the right which is 0.7 mile south of the Salmon River bridge. RSVP by 02/26 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, February 28, 9:00a - George Dudley Seymour State Park, Haddam Neck: A 6-mile hike along the ledges above the Connecticut River. There will be some bushwhacking. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/27 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, March 2, 8:45a - Winter Sports Outing at Maple Corner Farm, Granville, MA: An outing to Maple Corner Farm in the foothills of the Berkshires for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on groomed trails. Weekday trail fees: adult \$10, junior (6-12) \$6. Rentals are available at reasonable prices. Rating: X-C. Kids OK but no dogs. Bring own equipment or rent on site. Bring food and drink or purchase at the lodge. Lack of snow cancels and activates the Sleeping Giant State Park hike (found next on schedule). Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/02 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Friday, March 2, 8:45a - Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden: A 6- to 8-mile hike exploring the hills of the Sleeping Giant. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Snow in the Berkshires cancels and activates the Maple Corner Farm X-C outing (found preceding on schedule). Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/02 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Sunday, March 4, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: On this 5- to 6-mile hike we will go on some familiar trails and maybe also some unfamiliar trails in this park. We will also hike to a viewpoint over the Connecticut River. Rating: C2. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather or deep snow cover cancels. Meet at the lot at Hurd State Park entrance. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and meet at entrance on the right in a half mile. Don't park at lot by traffic light. RSVP by 03/03 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Tuesday, March 6, 9:00a - Colchester Air Line Spur, Colchester: A 6.6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail spur to the Air Line Trail. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the Colchester station house off Route 16 (Lebanon Road) 0.4 mile northeast of Main Street in Colchester at 9:30. RSVP by 03/05 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, March 7, 9:00a - Wagner Woods and Great Pond, Simsbury: An 8-mile hike in a preserve and a state park. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/06 to John at 860-342-0658.

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Saturday, March 10, 9:30a - Gay City State Park to Pine and Garnet Ledges, Bolton / Glastonbury / Hebron: A roughly 6-mile hike to Pine and Garnet Ledges on the John Tom Loop Trail. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron. RSVP by 03/09 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, March 11, 8:40a - Chauncey Peak and Mount Lamentation, Meriden: This will be a 5- to 6-mile hike on these two peaks with several beautiful views. Rating: C2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather or deep snow cover cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:40 or at the Giuffrida Park parking lot on Westfield Road in Meriden at 9:00. RSVP by 03/10 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Wednesday, March 14, 9:00a - Chapman Pond, East Haddam: A 6-mile hike in a Nature Conservancy preserve with vistas and cascades. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/13 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, March 16, 9:00a - Great Hill Quarry and Long Hill, Haddam: A 6-mile exploratory hike in the Cockaponset State Forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, March 17, 10:00a - Mashapaug Pond View Trail, Union: A 6-mile forest hike with numerous ups and downs, ending with pond views. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the front parking lot of Bigelow Hollow State Park. From I-84 northbound, take exit 73, turn right and drive north on Route 190 for 1.9 miles. Turn right on Route 171. Drive a further 1.4 miles and turn left into Bigelow Hollow State Park which will be after a long hill and a pond on the left. From the park entrance turn left immediately into parking lot. RSVP by 03/16 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Sunday, March 18, 9:00a - Hockanum River Linear Park Trails, Vernon / Manchester: A 4+ mile hike on the Oakland and Union Pond segments. Hike follows the Hockanum River along one bank and loops back following the other bank. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather or lack of RSVP's cancels. Meet at the parking outside Big Sky Fitness in Vernon. Take I-84 East to exit 63 then left on Route 83, follow that east 0.8 mile, turn left on Welles Road, and on to Big Sky Fitness on left. Park nearest the Hockanum River (there will be a small trail sign there). If a ride is needed, discuss with Glenda. RSVP by 03/17 to Glenda at 860-659-3178.

Wednesday, March 21, 9:00a - Fenton-Ruby Preserve, Willington: A 6-mile hike in a land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/20 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, March 24, 8:00a - Mattabesett and connecting trails, Middletown / Higganum: This will be an 8- to 10-mile hike with many ups and downs and beautiful views. Rating: C1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/23 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Sunday, March 25, 9:30a - Cockaponset Trail, Haddam: A roughly 7-mile loop hike by brooks and the Pataconk Reservoir to an old charcoal site. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the hiker's lot on south side of Route 148 across from the Filey Road forest gate for a start at 9:30 sharp. Take Route 9 to exit 6, then drive west on Route 148 for roughly 2.5 miles. RSVP by 03/24 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Tuesday, March 27, 9:30a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: A hike of 6 miles on the west loop trails. Rating: C1. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water and snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park hiker's lot on Route 80. From intersection of Routes 80 and 81 in Killingworth, drive west on Route 80 for 1.1 miles and take right into parking lot. RSVP by 03/26 to Alan at 860 267-2799.

PLEASE NOTE THAT HIKES WITH * DO NOT GET ADVERTISED OUTSIDE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Meshomasic Hiking Club Winter 2018 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down;
D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Wednesday, March 28, 9:00a - Wadsworth Falls State Park, Rockfall: A 5-mile hike to a frozen waterfall. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/27 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, March 31, 2:00p - Palmer Preserve Boil-up, Portland: A 5-mile hike to old foundations, waterfalls, and a new rail trail. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/30 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, April 7, 9:30a - Chatfield Trail south, Killingworth: A roughly 8-mile hike on the scenic Chatfield Trail by interesting rock formations. Can you fit through the Fat Man's Squeeze? Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park hiker's lot on Route 80. From intersection of Routes 80 and 81 in Killingworth, drive west on Route 80 for 1.1 miles and take right into parking lot. RSVP not required. Call or e-mail with questions to Laurette at 860-614-4021 or laquettesaller@gmail.com.